

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8641

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 0459

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, UR

SUBJ: SOVIET COMMENTS ON ANGOLAN SITUATION

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF OAU SUMMIT IS SUBDUED, BUT WE HAVE HAD TWO PRIVATE COMMENTS IN RECENT DAYS ALLUDING TO POSSIBILITY OF MPLA-UNITA COALITION WITHOUT ROBERTO. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA'S JANUARY 13 COVERAGE OF ADDIS ABABA SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS PRESENTATIONS OF SOMALIA'S SIAD AND NIGERIA'S MUHAMMED, BUT DOES NOT MENTION VOTING DEADLOCK BETWEEN SUPPORTERS OF TWO RESOLUTIONS. IZVESTIYA JANUARY 12, HOWEVER, NOTES THAT EACH RESOLUTION HAD 22 BACKERS AND EXPLAINS ETHIOPIAN AND UGANDAN NEUTRALITY. PRAVDA ALSO CARRIES
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TASS ITEM FROM WASHINGTON REPORTING DANIEL SCHORR'S

CHARGE ON CBS THAT PUBLICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL REPORT ON U.S. ACTIVITIES IN ANGOLA WAS QUASHED AT PRESIDENT'S REQUEST AS NOT IN NATIONAL INTEREST.

3. DESCRIPTION OF COMPETING RESOLUTIONS AT SUMMIT IN JANUARY 13 PRAVDA IS MORE SUGGESTIVE: ONE IS AN INVITATION TO OAU TO RECOGNIZE PRA AS ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, AND OTHER CALLS ON OAU "TO RECOGNIZE ALL THREE MOVEMENTS IN ANGOLA AND CREATE THE COALITION GOVERNMENT WHICH COLLAPSED (RAZVALIVSHEESYA) SOME MONTHS AGO DUE TO THE SPLITTIST ACTIVITIES OF FNLA AND UNITA."

4. IN THIS CONNECTION, TWO RECENT PRIVATE COMMENTS FROM SOVIETS MAY BE WORTH NOTING. RADIO MAYAK NEWS EDITOR IGOR CHARIKOV VOLUNTEERED OUT OF THE BLUE TO EMBOFF JANUARY 10 THAT ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION CHANCES FOR SOME KIND OF MPLA-UNITA COALITION WERE GETTING BETTER AND BETTER. AND IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF JANUARY 12, PROFESSOR V.G. SOLODOVNIKOV, DIRECTOR OF AFRICA INSTITUTE IN MOSCOW, SAID THAT COALITION GOVERNMENT BETWEEN MPLA AND SAVIMBI WAS POSSIBLE BUT THAT ROBERTO WOULD NEVER BE ACCEPTABLE TO NETO AND HIS MPLA COLLEAGUES. COALITION WITH OTHER FNLA LEADERS WAS ALSO FEASIBLE, SOLODOVNIKOV SAID, BUT ROBERTO, WHO IS "HATED SO MUCH AS AN INDIVIDUAL," IS BASIC PROBLEM FOR MPLA.

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